



NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) was 3.8 percent for July, up two-tenths of a percentage point from both the previous month and from one year ago, as shown in Northeast Idaho Table 1. Butte and Bingham Counties contributed to the rate increase as they increased 1.2 percentage points and eight-tenths of a percentage point, respectively. Bingham County is largely affected by fresh and processed potato activity, which slowed during the month due to limited availability of the potatoes until harvest of the new crop. Butte County is still affected by layoffs at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) as recent layoffs included another 21 workers, bringing the total laid off since 2001 to 770. Both Bonneville and Jefferson Counties decreased one-tenth of a percentage point month-over-month. The unemployment rate in all but one county in the LMA increased over July 2001. The exception was Butte County where the rate remained unchanged. The unemployment rate in Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, was unchanged at 3.6 percent month-over-month, but was an increase of three-tenths of a percentage point from July 2001.

The unemployment rate in the other counties in Northeast Idaho either increased or remained unchanged from June. The more notable increases were seen in Clark and Custer Counties with a 1.0 percentage point and seven-tenths of a percentage point increase, respectively. Madison County's unemployment rate, the lowest rate in the state, remained unchanged at 1.8 percent. Year-over-year, three counties showed a decrease in their unemployment—Fremont, Lemhi, and Madison. The other three counties—Clark, Custer, and Teton—reported increases; Teton was the most noticeable at 3.3 percent—a 1.2 percentage points increase. The rates can be seen in the statewide data table found on page 3.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs decreased by 620 jobs month-over-month with losses oc-

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, and Jefferson Counties

	June 2002*	May 2002	June 2001	% Change From Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	83,330	83,230	81,450	0.1	2.3
Unemployment	3,190	3,030	2,920	5.3	9.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.6	3.6		
Total Employment	80,140	80,200	78,530	-0.1	2.1
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	84,060	84,430	82,180	-0.4	2.3
Unemployment	2,790	2,670	2,540	4.5	9.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.3	3.2	3.1		
Total Employment	81,270	81,760	79,640	-0.6	2.0
JOB BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	63,930	64,550	62,440	-1.0	2.4
Goods-Producing Industries	10,230	10,040	10,080	1.9	1.5
Mining & Construction	5,130	4,950	4,890	3.6	4.9
Manufacturing	5,100	5,090	5,190	0.2	-1.7
Food Processing	2,320	2,340	2,690	-0.9	-13.8
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	590	570	450	3.5	31.1
All Other Manufacturing	2,190	2,180	2,050	0.5	6.8
Service-Producing Industries	53,700	54,510	52,360	-1.5	2.6
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,330	2,360	2,430	-1.3	-4.1
Wholesale Trade	5,370	5,520	5,420	-2.7	-0.9
Retail Trade	11,590	11,730	11,200	-1.2	3.5
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,980	1,960	1,920	1.0	3.1
Services	22,070	21,700	21,300	1.7	3.6
Government Administration	5,600	5,700	5,740	-1.8	-2.4
Government Education	4,760	5,540	4,350	-14.1	9.4

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

curing in the *Service-Producing Industries*. *Government Education* lost 780 jobs as teachers started into their summer break and school districts reorganized to adapt not only for changes in school population but for the budget shortfall as well. Other smaller losses were seen in *Wholesale Trade (Nondurables)*, *Retail Trade* (mostly *Eating & Drinking*), *Government Administration (Federal and State)*, and *Transportation (Trucking & Warehousing)*. *Services* showed a gain of 370, mostly from the *Hotels & Other Lodging* and *Nonprofit Organizations* sectors. A small gain (20 jobs) occurred in the *Finance* sector.

Although none of the *Goods-Producing Industries* experienced losses month-over-month, *Food Processing* in the *Manufacturing* sector did experience a loss of 20 jobs, but it was countered by gains in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment* and *All Other Manufacturing*. *Construction* showed a gain of almost 200 jobs as residential and commercial building continues to grow in the area.

A year-over-year gain of 1,490 jobs occurred in *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs*. *Service-Producing Industries* added 1,340 of those jobs, with *Services* adding the most (770). *Services* saw the strongest growth in *Business Services* (280) followed by *Hotels & Other Lodging* (200), *Hospitals* (140), and *Social Services* (120). *Construction* (240), *Retail Trade* (390), and *Government Education* (410)

also showed strong job increases from July 2001. The LMA's economy continues to be stable despite the national economic slump and the local layoffs at INEEL. Losses were seen only in a few industries with *Government Administration* showing the most at 140. With state budgetary concerns, the effect of trimming budgets on jobs was seen in both state (170 jobs) and local (80 jobs) government.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Bonneville County

- The west side of Idaho Falls will have an Albertsons superstore sometime next year. The Boise-based food store will construct its 50,000-square-foot superstore on the southeast corner of West Broadway and Skyline Drive. There will also be an Albertson's Express convenience store and gas station at the same location. The Skyline Albertsons will close when the superstore is ready for business. The store is the flagship of Kingston Plaza, a proposed 20-acre retail center including the former Kmart/Ernst store. Watch for new developments over the next few years as Kingston's will still have 115,000-square feet of retail space available after the superstore is completed.
- Corporate Express broke ground at the end of August for its new four-state distribution center and retail store. Construction of the \$8 million building already has started and completion is expected this winter. The company currently employs 80 people, but plans to add another 30 to 40 over the next year as part of the expansion. The company also will be able to share Melaleuca's Koala Kids' day care facility just across the street from the new store. This way, parents will be able to share lunch hours or breaks with their children.
- Grand Teton Harley-Davidson & Buell held its grand opening in mid-August at 848 Houston Avenue in Idaho Falls. Owners Dale and Terri Pyne renovated the former Simplot potato warehouse in order to have a 20,000-square-foot shop with three sections: a showroom, an elevated clothing and parts store, and a service department and repair shop. The store currently employs about 20 people in sales and service. The phone number for the new business is 523-1464.
- Sleepy J Cabins are now available for rent in Swan Valley. Originally started as places for their children to stay on visits, "Jake" Jacobson and Michele Hornby decided to make a business out of it. The nine cabins are comprised of one and two bedroom units and are equipped with phones, mini kitchens, full-sized bathrooms, 27-inch color televisions, satellite service, VCRs, and high-speed Internet access. Sleepy J is located on state Highway 31, an eighth of a mile off of U.S. Highway 26. Additional information can be obtained by calling 483-0411 or on the Internet at <http://www.sleepyjcabins.com>.
- Beehive Federal Credit Union held a groundbreaking for its second Beehive building at 1650 East Sunnyside Road in Idaho Falls at the end of August. The

building will occupy more than 3,000-square feet on the ground floor with two-thirds of a basement. The credit union is expected to open in May 2003. The first Beehive building is located in Rexburg at 65 South Center.

- AutoZone Inc. opened a store at 1562 West Broadway in Idaho Falls at the end of July. The auto parts retailer now operates out of its 5,000-square-foot building offering free testing for batteries, starters, alternators, voltage regulators, and control modules. The store accepts engine oil for recycling and features a Loan-A-Tool program allowing do-it-yourself mechanics to borrow specialty tools for one-time repair jobs. It is open Mondays through Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sundays, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- The local Fraternal Order of Eagles, Lodge No. 576 held its groundbreaking at the beginning of August at 657 Hemmert Drive in Idaho Falls. The new facility will be 12,600-square feet with a 3,520-square-foot banquet facility and kitchen available to the public. The building sits on 4.2 acres and includes RV parking units for visitors. The group is a nonprofit organization whose proceeds go to numerous charitable causes.
- Flashbacks, a new scrapbooking store, recently opened in the Ammon Town Square on Hitt Road. The store carries the latest in die-cuts, stickers, patterned paper, and many other supplies. It will also have classes on scrapbooking ideas and techniques.

Madison County

- Sam Goody, a specialty music retailer, opened an outlet in the middle of August at the Valley River Center in Rexburg. Sam Goody is part of the Musicland Group, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Best Buy Company, Inc. Musicland operates more than 1,300 stores under four names—Sam Goody, Suncoast Motion Picture Company, Media Play, and On Cue. The stores are located in 49 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. This is the first one in Rexburg.

Fremont County

- With the help of grants from the Economic Development Agency and the East Central Idaho Planning and Development Association (ECIPDA), St. Anthony is tearing down six buildings as part of a downtown revitalization effort. ECIPDA owns two of the buildings. After the buildings are torn down, ECIPDA and the city will build two new buildings. One building will house a distance-learning center for Eastern Idaho Technical College along with a 25-student classroom to be shared with ML Technologies. The other building will house six to eight offices for start-up businesses. The remaining property will become a parking lot for ML Technologies.

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